



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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RICHARD SHUMSKY
Chief Probation Officer

June 11, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Gloria Molina

From: Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer *RS*
Marilyn T. Gogolin, Acting Superintendent, LACOE *mgt*

Subject: PILOT VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM AT
CAMP GLENN ROCKEY STATUS REPORT

On September 9, 2001, the Board approved a pilot Visual and Performing Arts Program for Probation Camp Glenn Rockey. The Chief Probation Officer and Acting County Superintendent of Schools were asked to provide the Board with a status report as to the effectiveness of the program.

The Visual and Performing Arts Program, consisting of four sessions, is designed to have students work directly with two experienced professional artists, a muralist and a musician. Each session, which accommodates 30 students, lasts for a period of 12 weeks. The first session began on September 19, 2001; the second session started in January 2002; and the third session is scheduled to begin this month, June 2002. Through a hands-on approach, the students are able to increase their proficiency and knowledge of arts and music as well as develop an appreciation of cultural diversity including African and Latin music. At the conclusion of each session, students are given the opportunity to formally showcase their newly developed skills.

Some of the positive results of the Program are as follows:

- 90% of the participating students who have been released from camp have remained *arrest-free* for the past six months following graduation from camp.
- 88% of the students, upon camp graduation, enrolled and are currently attending local schools (30) and colleges (5).
- 90% of the students completed their camp program without receiving a referral for negative behavior.

- 95% of the participants completed the Visual and Performing Arts Program and received Certificates of Completion.
- 100% of the students who completed the Program received academic credit in Visual and Performing Arts.

Other notable preliminary results indicate that a significant number of the students surveyed expressed an interest in continuing in the arts beyond their camp program. Gaining a feeling of self-worth, one student said, "It showed me I could do greater things if I did my best." Moreover, students view the Program as an effective tool for eliciting cooperation as exhibited while working on the mural project and playing music together. This teamwork amongst camp participants occurred across previous gang, cultural, and community lines.

Currently, the collaboration is working with the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department in establishing criteria for eligibility for scholarships so students can pursue their interest in the arts and music upon release into the community.

Although the Visual and Performing Arts Program is only at the mid-point, early student surveys reflect a program that is of interest and benefit to the students at Camp Rockey. At a minimum, the Program provides exposure to the different forms of art and music which students would most likely not have received. We would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for approving this pilot project.

Please see attachments highlighting the accomplishments of the Visual and Performing Arts Program at Camp Glenn Rockey.

RS:MTG/ju/cap
Attachments

cc: David Janssen, CAO
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Education Deputies